

HONORING THE TRINITY VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE LADY  
CARDINALS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Trinity Valley Community College Lady Cardinals as the 2014 National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Division I Women's Basketball Champions. This marks the 3rd consecutive NJCAA Championship for the Lady Cardinals, a new NJCAA Division 1 record.

In a 65 to 46 victory, the Lady Cardinals closed out their season with a 35–1 record. The success enjoyed by the team is truly remarkable and a testament to the hard work and dedication of its players as well as Head Coach Elena Lovato, Assistant Coaches Gerald Ewing and Spencer Robertson, and Team Manager Scott Pellegrin. Trinity Valley Community College President Dr. Glendon Forgey, faculty, staff, and students are also to be commended for TVCC's success both on the court and in the classroom.

In addition to the record breaking team performance of the Lady Cardinals this season, I also want to recognize Adut Bulgak for being named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, and Coach Lovato being named "Coach of the Tournament."

Trinity Valley Community College Lady Cardinals include: Adut Bulgak, Rodricka Patton, Shlonte' Allen, Jazmine Spears, Julianne Anchling, Kuaneshia Baker, Deborah Meeks, Sylvia Smith-Gatson, Leashja Grant, Kyhonta Doughty, Autumn Williams, and Dominique Brooks.

On behalf of the citizens of Athens and the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize the Lady Cardinals in the United States House of Representatives.

**PAT SOLANO, 2013 ATTORNEY JOSEPH SAVORITO SR. GREATER PITTSSTON LIFETIME OF SERVICE AWARD WINNER**

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pat Solano, the recipient of the 2013 Attorney Joseph Saporito Sr. Greater Pittston Lifetime of Service Award.

Mr. Solano was born on June 22, 1925 in Pittston Township, Pennsylvania. In 1942, he graduated from Pittston Township High School and immediately joined the U.S. Army Air Corp. During World War II, Mr. Solano flew 23 combat missions over Germany with the Eighth U.S. Army Corp Heavy Bombardment Group. For his service, he received the Group Presidential Citation, the Air Force Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European Combat Theatre Medal with two Bronze Stars. Once home from the war, Mr. Solano met and married his wife Marie, and they had six daughters.

After serving in the Army, Mr. Solano dedicated his life to public service, beginning as

the assistant police chief for Pittston Township. In 1950, he became the Third District Republican Chairman, and later was named the County Republican Chairman in 1968. He also served two terms as a member of the Pittston Township School Board. Since 1969, Mr. Solano has worked for and advised ten Pennsylvania governors from both sides of the aisle. In 2002, he retired after 40 years of federal service.

Mr. Solano's dedication to Pennsylvania does not end with his work. He was a member of the Pittston Township Bicentennial Committee, Assistant Scout Master for Troop 212 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus, the Columbus League of Luzerne County, Pittston Memorial Library fundraising co-chairman, and Luzerne County Community College trustee.

For his commitment to improving Pennsylvania, Mr. Solano has received many accolades and awards. He was honored by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, an agency he helped start 20 years ago. He also received the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Thomas P. Shelbourne Environmental Leadership Award, a Doctor of Humane Letters from Misericordia University, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Commander's Award.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Solano has shown outstanding dedication to our nation, the state of Pennsylvania, and his local community. Therefore, I commend him for his service and receipt of the 2013 Attorney Joseph Saporito Sr. Greater Pittston Lifetime of Service Award, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

**SGR REPEAL AND MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014**

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, using Medicare as a political pawn in their 51st attempt to undermine the Affordable Care Act is a new low, even for House Republicans.

Americans are waiting for Congress to stop wasting time and start passing constructive solutions to the real challenges this country faces. The broken Medicare physician payment system is one such challenge. And there is a bipartisan, bicameral plan to reform Medicare physician payments to promote quality and efficiency.

Unfortunately, today's vote isn't about that plan at all. We know this because the bill includes a poison pill that guarantees it will never become law. This is nothing more than one more tired exercise in Republicans indulging their obsessive hatred of the Affordable Care Act. Rather than working with Democrats to reach agreement on how to advance Medicare payment reform in a fiscally responsible way, Republicans instead attached a five-year delay of the Affordable Care Act's requirement that everyone take responsibility for having health insurance. The White House has indicated the President would veto this bill if it were to reach his desk.

Private health insurers object to today's anti-Obamacare exercise. America's Health Insurance Plans and Blue Cross BlueShield Association wrote:

"we have deep concerns about packaging the Medicare physician payment bill with legislation that would sever the link between the ACA's individual mandate and its market reforms. The experience of states that attempted this in the 1990s demonstrates that removing this important linkage will result in more uninsured Americans, higher costs, and reduced choices for individuals and families. To avoid these outcomes, we are asking Congress to reject efforts to repeal or delay the individual mandate in the debate on Medicare physician payment reform."

The American Academy of Family Physicians had this to say:

"It is disturbing that work designed to expand access to quality health care would be advanced alongside a policy that deliberately removes access to quality health care coverage. Providing access to health care coverage for millions of Medicare beneficiaries while eliminating access to health care coverage for millions more is simply poor public policy and we urge that such approach be abandoned."

This vote today is further evidence—as if any more were needed—that Republicans in Congress simply are not serious about addressing our real challenges. We need to fix Medicare physician payments. We need to improve opportunity in this country. We need to raise the minimum wage. We need to renew extended unemployment benefits. Currently over two million Americans out of work through no fault of their own have been left in the lurch by Republicans' refusal to renew these benefits. We were elected to this body to solve problems, not to posture endlessly.

If Congressional Republicans were serious about fixing Medicare physician payments, they would not pull stunts like this. If they cared more about solving problems than they do about fulfilling their anti-Obamacare fetish, they would not pull stunts like this. Americans deserve better. Medicare beneficiaries deserve better, as do the doctors who treat them. To the majority, I say, stop wasting everyone's time.

**RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF NOWRUZ**

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with this opportunity to recognize Nowruz, a traditional Persian holiday that began on March 20 and celebrates the arrival of spring.

Nowruz has been observed by millions of individuals of Persian descent for more than 3,000 years as a time of renewal health, happiness, and prosperity. The holiday's ecumenical values are celebrated by adherents of many religions including Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahai' faith. It is considered a special time to share with family and friends and to honor cultural traditions.

In the United States, Nowruz serves to remind us of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of American society.

In Los Angeles, which is home to the largest Iranian-American community in the United States, there is great pride in the community's devotion to civic activism, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship. I ask my colleagues in joining me to wish all those celebrating Nowruz a happy and prosperous new year.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT S. "BOB"  
STRAUSS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert S. "Bob" Strauss who passed away last Wednesday, March 19 at age 95. Strauss was not only a fixture in Dallas and Texas, he was nationally revered as a close advisor to presidents of both parties, from Lyndon B. Johnson to George W. Bush.

Not only was Strauss politically valuable to our nation, his personality was unforgettable. Bob Strauss was personally influential and I admire him greatly. Strauss' weight on our political world today was extremely vast. His contributions to Dallas and to Texas will not be forgotten.

Strauss had early success as a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where he campaigned for a state-assembly candidate and volunteered for Lyndon B. Johnson's first congressional campaign. Strauss completed his law degree at the University of Texas and worked as a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigations during World War II. At the end of the war, he and fellow FBI agent founded the law firm Gump and Strauss which later evolved into Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, and Feld. In law school, he met former Texas Governor John Connally who helped Strauss cultivate his political career.

Strauss served as the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee between 1972 and 1977. Strauss has been credited for the Democratic Party's reunification that helped to elect President Jimmy Carter in 1976. During the Carter Administration, Strauss served as the United States Trade Representative and as Middle East negotiator. During the first Bush Administration, he served as the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union and subsequently as the U.S. ambassador to Russia. Strauss played a major role for American interests during the Soviet Union's breakdown and the emergence of a democratic Russia. Strauss was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Carter in 1981.

Strauss had the unique ability to serve presidents and political leaders on both sides of the aisle. His political astuteness and skill are rare traits and will be fondly remembered. I urge my colleagues to recognize and celebrate the life of Bob Strauss.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOSEPH P.  
McFADDEN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Joseph P. McFadden,

a distinguished former member of the Philadelphia education and Catholic community.

Bishop McFadden was born in Philadelphia on May 22, 1947. Attending Catholic schools for his elementary and secondary education, Bishop McFadden was an involved and active student. He then enrolled in Philadelphia's Saint Joseph University, where he matriculated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Politics. Bishop McFadden's childhood and education prepared him well to be a life-long advocate for education in Philadelphia.

After teaching and coaching at West Catholic Boys High School from 1969–1976, Bishop McFadden entered Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Ordained as a priest on May 16, 1981, Bishop McFadden continued in his passion of higher education. He received a Master of Divinity, graduating Summa Cum Laude, upon completing his studies at Saint Charles Seminary.

Bishop McFadden served as an Honorary Prelate to Pope John Paul II for two years. In 1993, Cardinal Bevilacqua appointed Bishop McFadden as the first President of Cardinal O'Hara High School. As President, the Bishop was vital to increasing the school's enrollment to 2000 students and initiating the program "Laptops for Learning."

Bishop McFadden began his service as a pastor in Downingtown in 2001, until he was appointed to be an Auxiliary Bishop in Philadelphia in June 2004. He was ordained to the Episcopacy on July 28, 2004 and was named the tenth Bishop of Harrisburg on June 22, 2010. Unfortunately, Bishop McFadden passed away on March 2, 2013. His passing is still mourned by the Catholic community. This week, Bishop McFadden will posthumously be given the Distinguished Catholic School Graduates Award by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for his service to Catholic School education in the state of Pennsylvania.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating Bishop Joseph P. McFadden. May his legacy and commitment be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING ARTS  
ADVOCACY DAY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, entrepreneur Steve Jobs once said, "It is in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough—it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that make our heart sing."

I rise today to recognize National Arts Advocacy Day and to stress the importance of arts and arts education for advancing technology and growing our economy.

I am proud to represent the Illinois delegation of thirteen arts and cultural leaders on Capitol Hill today, which include Ingenuity, a group that works with Chicago Public Schools, and whose mission it is to make arts education available to every child in every school.

Students in the arts and humanities learn how to explore, discover and innovate. Arts education engages kids in school, promotes

confidence and builds a foundation for success for every student, but it also grows our economy.

In Illinois, the non-profit arts and culture sector generates 2.75 billion dollars and supports more than 78,000 full-time-equivalent jobs. Additionally, Illinois is home to nearly 34,000 non-profit and for-profit arts businesses. These creative enterprises employ more than 140,000 people in jobs that cannot be outsourced.

I continue to be a proud supporter of arts education, and I've consistently supported robust funding for the National Endowment for the Arts—I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to illness and was not present for rollcall votes on Monday, March 24, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

H.R. 3060—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building"—"yes."

H.R. 1813—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building"—"yes."

RECOGNIZING THE CONSERVATION  
AND LAND PRESERVATION EF-  
FORTS OF EAST BRADFORD  
TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate East Bradford Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania on receiving the Growing Greener Communities Award bestowed by Natural Lands Trust and the Chester County Association of Township Officials.

East Bradford Township's 30-year-old Open Space Initiative, designed to protect natural areas and connect them through a trail network, has resulted in 6,000 acres of permanently protected land, 16 parks, and 26 miles of trails. In 2013 alone, the Township secured county funding for conservation easement on more than 80 acres of Township land, spearheaded a volunteer effort to plant 750 trees, commissioned stewardship plans for three of its sixteen parks, constructed more than two miles of trails, and organized the second annual Trail Blazer Race, the proceeds of which will be used to fund trail construction and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the community's long-standing commitment to conservation and land preservation, and on the occasion of being honored with the Growing Greener